

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01

OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 NRC-07 IO-13

SAJ-01 FRB-01 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 EPA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8891

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG BY POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 5604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SW

SUBJECT: NEW SWEDISH GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER THORBJORN FALLDIN TODAY PRESENTED THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO THE RIKSDAG. IN A LENGTHY STATEMENT BROADCAST OVER NATIONWIDE TELEVISION AND RADIO, FALLDIN SPELLED OUT THOSE PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EMPHASIZE IN ITS FIRST TERM IN OFFICE. HE SAID THE THREE-PARTY COALITION IS UNIFIED, THAT
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GOVERNMENT POLICIES WOULD BE FORMULATED THROUGH

COMPROMISE AND THAT DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT POWER WOULD BE A MAIN THEME OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT WILL STRESS STRENGTHENED LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FULL EMPLOYMENT AND LESS GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES. HE PROMISED CONTINUED SOCIAL REFORM, A MORE JUST TAXATION SYSTEM, A LIGHTENING OF THE TAX BURDEN FOR MIDDLE-INCOME AND SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESSES, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND STRICT SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION AND WASTE DISPOSAL. IN FOREIGN POLICY, THE NEW GOVERNMENT REITERATES NON-ALIGNMENT AS THE BEDROCK OF SWEDISH POLICY. A SUMMARY OF THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF FALLDIN'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. FOREIGN POLICY - FALLDIN SAID SWEDISH NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY WILL BE SAFEGUARDED AND SECURED BY A STRONG DEFENSE. NORDIC COOPERATION IS TO BE EMPHASIZED AND RELATIONS WITH EUROPE DEEPENED. STRONG SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN BY SWEDEN TO THE UN. SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL BE INCREASED AS WILL SWEDISH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. FOREIGN AID IS TO BE CONCENTRATED ON ASSISTING THE POOREST COUNTRIES. REFLECTING FALLDIN'S CENTER PARTY'S GREAT CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THE NEW GOVERNMENT ADVOCATES AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO CURTAIL EXPORT OF NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY TO NON-SIGNATORIES OF THE NPT TREATY.

3. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS PROTECTION - THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PROVISIONS OF THE SWEDISH PRIVACY ACT WILL BE STRENGTHENED, AND THE "BUREAUCRATIZATION OF OUR SOCIETY" WILL BE "BROKEN." REFLECTING A TRADITIONAL CENTER PARTY DEMAND FOR THE ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT CENTRALIZATION, THE PROGRAM PROMISES THAT LOCAL SELF-RULE WILL BE REINFORCED. REGIONAL PLANNING WILL BE

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TRANSFERRED FROM CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT BOARDS TO THE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL LEVEL.

4. ECONOMY - AFTER DESCRIBING SWEDEN'S CURRENTLY SLUGGISH ECONOMY, CAUSED BY INFLATION AND A WEAKENING OF SWEDEN'S COMPETITIVE POSITION IN EXPORT MARKETS, THE PRIME MINISTER OUTLINED A VARIETY OF PROPOSALS FOR REFORM INCLUDING: A

REGOROUS CONSIDERATION OF NEW PUBLIC EXPENDITURES; MEASURES TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SAVINGS; AND AN AMBITIOUS TAX REFORM TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 1977. FALLDIN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE THE LOWERING OF MARGINAL TAX RATES ON MIDDLE-LEVEL INCOMES, WOULD AMEND LEGISLATION TO GIVE RELIEF TO SMALL BUSINESSES AS THEY COPE WITH PAYROLL TAXES; AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO OBTAIN CREDIT. THE GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER PLACE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARDS OF INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS. A NEW TRAFFIC POLICY AND A NEW HIGHWAY POLICY WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE RIKSDAG.

5. EMPLOYMENT - THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PROMISES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICY. IT DESCRIBES IN GENERAL TERMS THE CREATION OF NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SWEDISH INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. YOUNG WORKERS ARE TO BE GUARANTEED WORK, TRAINING OR EDUCATION. THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE SYSTEM IS TO BE STRENGTHENED AND MADE MORE EFFECTIVE. A FIFTH WEEK OF VACATION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1978. INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, WHICH WAS A HALLMARK OF SUCCESSIVE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, WILL CONTINUE TO BE PURSUED. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY RESOURCES WILL BE INCREASED. CHILD CARE PROGRAMS WILL BE EXPANDED AND CHILD AND HOUSING ALLOWANCES WILL BE INCREASED. IN THE AREA OF HOUSING, THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES THAT ALL SWEDES "WILL HAVE A RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE DWELLING."

6. AGRICULTURE - AGRICULTURAL POLICY, PARTICULARLY UNCLASSIFIED

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IN NORTHERN SWEDEN, WILL BE REGARDED AS PART OF AN OVERALL AND ACTIVE REGIONAL POLICY, AND INCREASED FOCUS WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE INTERACTION BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. LAND ACQUISITION POLICY WILL ENCOURAGE THE FAMILY FARM "TO BE THE DOMINANT TYPE OF ENTERPRISE." ASSISTANCE IS PROMISED TO THE SWEDISH FISHING INDUSTRY AND STRONG RESTRICTIONS WILL BE PLACED ON SWEDISH INDUSTRY TO PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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7. ENERGY - THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE A PROGRAM FOR THE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, PRIMARILY IN THE HEATING OF HOMES AND IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES. INCREASED RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH IN SOLAR ENERGY AND WIND AND GEO-THERMAL POWER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR POWER, FALLDIN'S PROGRAM STATEMENT FOCUSES IN A DETAILED WAY ON THE PROBLEMS AND RISKS CONNECTED WITH THE HANDLING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL STIPULATE THAT NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL BE FORBIDDEN

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TO OPERATE UNLESS INDUSTRY CAN PRESENT AN ACCEPTABLE CONTRACT FOR THE REPROCESSING OF USED NUCLEAR FUEL AND, IN ADDITION, DESCRIBE HOW AND WHERE A COMPLETELY SECURE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM WILL BE ESTABLISHED. BARSEBACK II, THE NEWEST OF SWEDEN'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, WILL BE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN UNLESS THE COMPANY CAN FULFILL THESE CONDITIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1977. A SPECIAL COMMISSION IS TO BE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR POWER AND NUCLEAR WASTES. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WILL BE DEBATED IN THE RIKSDAG IN 1978 AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER A PUBLIC REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF FURTHER NUCLEAR EXPANSION.

8. SOCIAL WELFARE - IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAMPAIGN PROMISES OF THE THREE VICTORIOUS COALITION POLITICAL PARTIES, THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM DESCRIBES CONTINUED SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE. AN EXPANDED SYSTEM OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL INSURANCE INCLUDING DENTAL CARE INSURANCE IS PROPOSED. PENSIONS FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE IMPROVED. THE SOCIAL AND HEALTH CONDITIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN SWEDISH SOCIETY WILL LIKEWISE BE ENHANCED. A STEPPED UP PROGRAM AGAINST ALCOHOLISM AND THE ABUSE OF NARCOTICS WILL BE PROPOSED. PERSONNEL AND FUNDING RESOURCES FOR THE POLICE WILL BE INCREASED.

EDUCATION - THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PROMISES A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ENRICH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPERIENCE OF SWEDISH STUDENTS. SMALLER SCHOOL UNITS AND AN IMPROVED TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO WILL BE OUTLINED TO THE RIKSDAG. BASIC RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AT SWEDISH UNIVERSITIES WILL BE EXPANDED. REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARDS WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PERMIT THE ADAPTATION OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS TO LOCAL SITUATIONS. A PROPOSAL WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE RIKSDAG REGARDING THE REORGANIZATION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION "TO BETTER MEET THE DEMAND
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FOR DECENTRALIZATION AND DIVERSITY."

10. COMPLETE TEXT OF STATEMENT BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
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